

Submitter: Mark Watson

On Behalf Of: Hillsboro Hops

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Measure: HB5201

Hello. For the record my name is Mark Watson. I'm a recent resident of Hillsboro and a 23 year resident of Aloha. I have been a season ticket holder at the Hillsboro Hops since before the team completed its move to Hillsboro. I'm writing to express my support for the funding package in HB 5201. The bottom line is that while the situation is not perfect, and some of the decision making process might have been opaque - it would be devastating for multiple communities in Oregon to lose minor league baseball.

As you already know:

- This situation was forced on the Hops by Major League Baseball. I do think it is with the best of intentions and sometimes change for the better can only come when forced by a a powerful entity. But without the change in requirements by MLB - this situation would not have occurred.

- The Hillsboro Hops are a treasured member of our community. Charitable giving. Jobs for youth (including my 24 year old daughter's first job at age 16). Family friendly entertainment at a reasonable price. Gathering place for the whole community.

- Without changes, the risk of losing minor league baseball in Oregon increases dramatically.

Please move HB 5201 out of committee and send it to the chambers for a full vote.

Thank you
Mark Watson